

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book builds on my doctoral thesis, defended in 2016 at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE, Department of Government). I am grateful to my PhD mentor, Dr. Martin Lodge (LSE), and my PhD advisor, Dr. Christel Koop (King's College London), for their insightful guidance and support. Working with Martin and Christel was a true privilege and the value of their mentorship extends far beyond the doctoral research.

I would also like to thank my thesis examiners, Dr. Jan Meyer-Sahling (University of Nottingham) and Dr. Colin Provost (UCL), for their time and effort. Their feedback has been valuable for my recent revision of the thesis while writing this book.

I am grateful to the interviewees – from the observed anticorruption agencies, local NGOs, research and journalist communities, and international organisations – for their time and good will to talk about topics related to this research. The fieldworks in Zagreb, Belgrade and Skopje were truly exciting experiences and good learning opportunities.

My thanks also go to the fellows from the 4.1 room in the LSE Department of Government – Marta Wojciechowska, Robert van Geffen, Ellie Knot, Kenneth Bunker, Gisela Calderon-Gongora, Ed Poole, Pon Souvannaseng, Randi Solhjell and many others. We shared the suffering and joy of PhD studies, including that weird experience of staring at a note stuck on the glassdoor of our PhD room reading: “Don't Feed the Animals!”.

My friends Daniel Wang, Stefan Paduraru and Uglješa Grušić were a great company and source of support during those several years of research, at LSE and beyond. In the later stages of the research, I had the privilege of meeting Branislav Radeljić, Marko Milanović and Marija Zurnić – people whose wit and advice made my life during the notorious ‘PhD end game’ as bearable as possible. I am also grateful to Marko Vojinović, Milan Dinić, Ognjen Dragičević, Aleksandar Jovančić and Mile Prodanović, for their help and assistance prior to and during the doctoral studies. Before this research commenced, Professor Dušan Pavlović, from the University of Belgrade, had nudged me towards studying institutionalism and helped my efforts to come to, and stay at, LSE, for which I will always be grateful to him.

Special thanks go to my friend Raša Cerović, a remarkable person that one can rely on during the most difficult times. A great connoisseur of sports, Raša was a perfect company during the doctoral studies to rest my head listening about sports of all kinds. Raša particularly made my days during the 2012 London Olympics, with his meticulous commentary on swimming, handball, basketball, and field hockey. It is a great pity that Raša is not a Partizan fan.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife Ivana and her family for their encouragement. My mother Živojka deserves admiration for the sacrifices she has made during all those years since my departure from Belgrade. Sadly, I cannot hand over a copy of this book to my father Stevo, as he has not lived long enough to see this book in print. Yet, I am partly consoled by the fact that he was truly exhilarated to see the doctoral thesis defended.

As a final note, one part of the analysis presented in this book was used for an article titled ‘*Legal independence vs. leaders’ reputation: Exploring drivers of ethics commissions’ conduct in new democracies*’, which is published in the journal *Public Administration* (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12411>).

Dublin
November 2018